Congressional Activity on East Timor

Issue # 2

Apr

E

Congressional Record

United States of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 97th CONGRESS,

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — *Extensions of Remarks* *March 9, 1982*

TRAGIC SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

HON. DON EDWARDS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1982

● Mr. EDWARDS of California. Mr. Speaker, on previous occasions I have drawn attention to the tragic situation in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which was invaded by Indonesia in late 1975 and today remains occupied in defiance of interational law. The New York times and other newspapers have reported a Timorese death toll that may exceed 200,000—perhaps one-third or more of the island territory's original population of 700,000.

I have emphasized that it is wrong for the United States, which stands firm against foreign aggression in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Poland, to back Indonesia's indefensible stance on East Timor. I have underscored the fact that Portugal—which in international law is still recognized as the legal sovereign—has the responsibility to initiate diplomatic steps that could lay the groundwork for an eventual end to the Indonesian occupation of East Timor.

Last May 21 I noted with concern Indonesian press accounts of massive military maneuvers in East Timor by the Indonesian Armed Forces. There was no independent evidence that these military maneuvers had extended to actual military operations against Timorese nationalists who continue to resist Indonesia's brutal occupation of their country. I stated, however, that in the event that an Indonesian military offensive did take place, it should be condemned in the strongest possible terms. I would like to remind my colleagues that East Timor had already been subjected to a Cambodia-like famine, caused by the Indonesian invasion and subsequent military operations.

In recent months there have been many credible reports that a new Indonesian military offensive did in fact take place from last July through September. No one seriously disputes that this offensive took place.

The information that has become available is horrifying. Indonesian troops forcibly conscripted thousands of Timorese villagers in an unsuccessful attempt to flush out the nationalist resistance by using the villagers as a human shield. An account in the well-regarded Australian daily, the Age, drew particular attention to this "corral campaign," which should be condemned by all civilized people.

Let us be clear about the nature of this conflict. Amnesty International has provided accounts of mass executions carried out by Indonesian troops against surrendered Timorese nationalist guerillas and civilians alike. A January 12 report in the London Guardian said that "East Timorese refugees arriving in Lisbon claim that mass executions and indiscriminate brutality are continuing in their homeland." Other refugee and Catholic Church accounts have spoken of Indonesian executions of women and children, and have even charged that in some instances surrendered Timorese guerillas have been executed, and their wives forced to live with Indonesian soldiers.

In a Christmas Day editorial, the New York Times stated that "the people of East Timor are still being destroyed with genocidal fury." On Christmas Eve, the London Times, like the New York Times, made reference to situations in Poland, Afghanistan, and Central America, and also made strong mention of Timor.

Closer to my home, California newspapers have recently published excellent editorials and commentary on the East Timor tragedy. In short, while some would prefer to avert their eyes, Timor will not go away: It will continue to haunt us, until firm steps are taken to bring this tragedy to an end. I have suggested such steps before, and will continue to do so.

(Rep. Edwards' insertion continued with the text of the articles which he mentioned from the New York Times, the London Times, the Los Angeles Times, and the London Guardian.)

CONGRESSMAN TONY HALL PROVIDES UPDATE ON POSSIBLE FOOD SHORTAGE IN EAST TIMOR

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 1982

● Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, nearly 2 years ago, as a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I introduced an amendment to the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1980 concerning the tragic situation in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, an island territory that was invaded by Indonesia in late 1975. In the months immediately preceding the introduction of my amendment, conditions in East Timor were described in press accounts as comparable to those in Cambodia.

The measure I introduced expressed the sense of Congress that the President should take measures to encourage the Indonesian Government to allow increased access to East Timor for international relief organizations and to permit them to establish relief operations directly in East Timor. It also sought to encourage the Indonesians to allow free emigration from East Timor, particularly in the case of families whose members had already left the territory while others remained behind.

The amendment was adopted unanimously by the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. It eventually became section 408 of Public Law 96-533. The full text of section 408 follows:

PUBLIC LAW 96-533

EAST TIMOR

Section 408. It is the sense of the Congress that the President should take all appropriate measures to—

(1) continue to support and encourage relief operations by the Government of Indonesia and by international relief agencies in East Timor;

(2) assist the Government of Indonesia to facilitate the reuniting of families separated because of developments in recent years in East Timor; and

(3) encourage the Government of Indonesia to allow access to East Timor by international journalists.

In 1980, international relief agencies were able to eradicate some of the worst effects of the catastrophic situation that they had encountered the year before. However, on December 9, 1980, a report in the New York Times cited an Indonesian Government announcement that no international food aid would be accepted for East Timor beyond the end of that year.

Nevertheless, Members of Congress were assured that the food situation in East Timor was under control. Notwithstanding such assurances, the Times account quoted sources who warned of further tragedy if international relief agencies pulled out of East Timor.

By May, 1981, these agencies—which were never allowed more than a token presence in the territory—ended their full-time, on-the-ground activities in East Timor. Further relief efforts henceforth would be under Indonesian, rather than international, auspices.

The international access to East Timor sought by Congress in section 408 clearly has not been secured. As Mr. David Scott, representing the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Community Aid Abroad (Australia), and the Human Rights Council of Australia, said in a statement presented to the Fourth (Decolonization) Committee of the United Nations on the Question of East Timor on October 21, 1981:

Circumstantial, but no less powerful evidence, of resistance, food shortages and repression is found in the continuing refusal of the Indonesian Government to allow representatives of the United Nations, the International Jurists, Red Cross, foreign missions, international organizations or the media to enter and freely move around the country. This is after the unbelievably long period of 6 years following an occupation which the occupying forces would have us believed was welcomed.

All available evidence appears to confrim that one of the reasons that Indonesia has been denying outside free access to East Timor is that it does not want the world to know about its military initiatives against Timorese resisting Indonesian rule.

January, 1982, reports in the Australian media quote statements by Monsignor Martinho da Costa Lopes, the Roman Catholic bishop of East Timor, pointing to Indonesia military operations and forced conscription of Timorese villagers, which have resulted in serious food shortages in the territory. The bishop warns that a renewed famine is a real possibility unless sufficient international food aid reaches East Timor in the coming months.

This news media is most distressing. It follows other accounts of the effects of Indonesia's latest military push, including charges from Roman Catholic Church sources introduced into the RECORD last December 16 by Senator PAUL TSONGAS alleging that pregnant Timorese women and small children were put to death by Indonesian forces.

These horrifying reports should not distract us from another important issue, that of Timorese who wish to leave the island to join their families abroad. Little progress was made on this front in 1981. As the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1981 states: "In general, however, movement on the repatriation front has been slow over the past year."

Articles in late 1981 in the Boston Globe and the Christian Science Monitor describe the plight of those seeking to leave East Timor. These articles support the conclusion that Indonesian authorities are preventing people from leaving East Timor. They also suggest that Portugal should be playing a much more active diplomatic role on this question, through available intermediaries, to deal with urgent family reunification cases.

It should be noted that the State Department's human rights report on Indonesia is peppered with references to the situation in East Timor. As the Country Reports summarizes: "Much of the current international interest in human rights in Indonesia is focused on allegations of abuses in East Timor."

My particular concern is the threat of famine looming over East Timor. The Australian Government announced last month that it will ship 1,000 tons of corn in response to the appeal of the Timorese Bishop.

While this is an encouraging development, past food assistance has not prevented new Indonesian military offensives from renewing serious food problems on the island. Particularly alarming is the fact that there are currently no international relief agencies operating in East Timor to oversee the distribution of relief—or to offer some form of protection against violence to the population.

Unfortunately, the Indonesians already have indicated to the Australians that they are unwilling to permit Australian aid agencies to operate directly in East Timor. As the Indonesian Embassy press attaché was quoted as telling the Australians in the Sydney Morning Herald of January 12, 1982:

The procedure is to give relief or aid to Indonesia and especially Timor through the Indonesian Red Cross. To give directly to East Timor will not be allowed.

In view of the attitude of the Indonesians, the administration should act to implement the sense of Congress expressed in section 408 and call upon the Indonesians to permit independent, international relief agencies to operate on a full-time basis in East Timor. Now is the time to encourage such international presence in East Timor if food shortages are to be averted. This is one of those rare opportunities we have to head off a food crisis, rather than react to it.

In order to bring my colleagues up to date on developments in East Timor, articles by Daniel Southerland, of the Christian Science Monitor, and Arnold S. Koken, an East Timor expert appearing in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, follow:

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 11, 1982]

EAST TIMOR MAY FACE FOOD SHORTAGE

INDONESIAN MILITARY OPERATION COULD BE CAUSE

(By Daniel Southerland)

Still recovering from the famine which struck only a few years ago, the small former Portuguese colony of East Timor may now be facing new food shortages.

In January, it was learned that Monsignor Martinho da Costa Lopes, the Roman Catholic bishop of East Timor, sent an urgent appeal to nearby Australia, calling for aid. He said that a major Indonesian

military operation on the Southeast Asian island territory had disrupted planting, causing food shortages.

In Australia, Indonesian embassy officials denied there was a critical need for food on Timor, but the Australian government said that it would give 1,000 tons of corn to help avert shortages. Australian aid officials have been requesting direct access to the island territory, which has been largely shut off to the outside world since Indonesia annexed it after invading more than six years ago.

In the United States, Senator Paul Tsongas (D) of Massachusetts has drawn attention to East Timor. Last December, Tsongas referred to early accounts from Timorese Catholic sources reporting possible food shortages and an alleged massacre of Timorese civilians. On Feb. 8, Tsongas cited additional information from Monsignor Lopes. The Senator noted that there are no international relief agencies working on East Timor on a full-time basis and urged that Australia's Catholic Relief organization be permitted to enter the island to supervise the distribution of the newly promised Australian aid.

"To the best of our knowledge, the food situation is not critical," said a U.S. State Department official. The official said that his information was based on reports from diplomats and members of international organizations who vistied Timor over the past several months.

As a precautionary measure, however, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) helped late last year to fill several warehouses in Timor with food.

American interest in East Timor stems from close U.S. ties with Indonesia, the world's fifth most populous nation. The Indonesians used American weapons in their December 1975 invasion.

The United States has contributed heavily to international aid efforts on Timor, providing a good part of the food which was shipped to counter the widespread starvation which followed the Indonesian invasion. In the view of U.S. officials, the Timorese, who have their own distinctive identity and language, never stood a change of forming a viable separate state. Critics of U.S. policy dispute this assertion.

In its recently issued annual reports on human rights, the U.S. State Department mentions East Timor about a dozen times, and states that much of the current interest in human rights in Indonesia is focused on allegations of abuses in East Timor. These include allegations of killings, disappearances, and large-scale detentions. The Indonesian government denies that abuses have occurred. The State Department says that it is "difficult to independently confirm or deny" the allegations.

What the State Department does say, however, is that the Indonesians restricted access to the island to foreign observers more in 1981 than in 1980. It also says that East Timorese have left the island more slowly during the past year. Indeed, according to the department, only six of the families in an ICRC program and 47 in an Australian program have been allowed to leave Indonesia since Oct. 15, 1980.

One indication that all is not well on East Timor came last year from an unlikely source. Members of the Indonesian-installed East Timor provincial assembly, in a report to Indonesia's President Suharto, warned that members of the Indonesian military were behaving on Timor like "conquerors towards a conquered people." They said the assembly was continually receiving complaints from the Timorese about corruption and mistreatment by the military, including torture. In November, the two assembly members who signed the report were arrested. The State Department says the best available evidence indicates that they were released by the end of last year.

According to the Reuters news agency, the document prepared by the Timorese assemblymen was similar to a secret report compiled recently by Catholic priests in Timor for the Vatican.

Sen. Tsongas said this and other information confirmed his belief that an international presence is needed in East Timor to help protect the civilian population from violence and to distribute food.

[From the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Jan. 13, 1982]

PLIGHT OF TINEY TIMOR

(By Arnold S. Kohen)

It should be a news story of major importance: many tens of thousands killed—perhaps a third of the territory's 600,000 inhabitants—as a result of a military invasion by a nation with a population 200 times its size.

The occupation forces continue a ruthless campaign to destroy nationalist resistance while keeping news of the situation from the outside world by allowing few people to leave.

The victim nation fought bravely on the Allied side during World War II, losing at least 40,000 lives while sheltering Australian commandos. But its erstwhile friends turned their diplomatic backs when, in 1975, East Timor, a Southeast Asian island territory then emerging from 400 years of Portuguese colonial rule, faced invasion by its huge neighbor, Indonesia.

The State Department has admitted that "roughly 90%" of the arms available to the Indonesian generals—rulers of a strategically located, oil-rich nation with the world's fifth-largest population—at the time of the 1975 invasion were American-supplied; U.S. weapon shipments were stepped up thereafter. Jakarta has also received American diplomatic support for its position at the United Nations, which nevertheless has repeatedly rejected Indonesia's claim to sovereignty over East Timor.

And significantly, whenever new reports of Indonesian atrocities have surfaced, U.S. officials have gone to great lengths to shield Jakarta from congressional and press criticism.

Whatever the level of U.S. involvement, it has been far from easy to draw Americans' attention to the situation: Few have ever heard of East Timor, and there are perhaps a dozen Timorese-Americans in the United States—hardly the makings of a pressure group.

Nonetheless, the invasion and the illegal use of U.S.-supplied weapons for aggressive purposes attracted enough attention to stimulate an initiative in early 1976 by Rep. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, aimed at reducing U.S. military aid to Indonesia. The effort failed, but Congress held four hearings in 1977 and 1978 to probe, in the words of then-Rep. Donald Fraser, D-Minn., "allegations of genocide committed by the Indonesian-armed forces against the population of East Timor."

In September 1978, a group of journalists, among the few allowed a glimpse of the terrority since the invasion, cited accounts alleging that hundreds of Timorese were dying of starvation each month. In late 1979, international relief officials were finally admitted to the island, and they reported that conditions were "worse than Biafra and potentially as serious as Cambodia."

At the same time, a group of Timorese refugees, mainly Roman Catholic priests, traveled to the United States in an attempt to alert Congress and the news media to their country's plight.

This was at the height of the Cambodian famine, which followed the Vietnamese invasion of that country. The Soviets were invading Afghanistan. Though they tried, officials in the State Department were unable to explain persuasively just why the Indonesian invasion of East Timor was any different, or less in need of a humanitarian and political solution.

Indonesia's status as a "friendly" nation and its staunch anti-Communist presence in Southeast asia were factors in the unsympathetic response of "security-minded" people in the press and in Congress. Besides, Timor was an impoverished agrarian area with no wealth, apart from its people, for even Indonesia to exploit. The best reason anyone can offer for the invasion is simply that East Timor was there, the Portuguese were not, and Indonesia saw "instability" in the area.

Still, the congressional hearings in 1979–80 and the brief flurry of media coverage were enough to prod Jakarta into allowing some humanitarian aid onto the island. While that may have prevented some further deaths, it had no effect on other basic problems.

One of the Timorese priests (East Timor is largely Roman Catholic) who testified before Congress reported later that his relatives had been threatened because of his statements here. The Indonesians are still denying permission to emigrate, and those who dare to apply, and families of those who have left, are punished or threatened.

In late 1980, Amnesty International reported arbitrary executions of surrendered nationalist guerrillas by the Indonesian forces, "disappearances" and large-scale imprisonment without trial. Amnesty (and the Catholic Church in East Timor) recommended that international relief agencies be permitted to maintain and expand their presence in the territory to provide some level of protection for the Timorese population.

Last May, the Timorese seemed to have gained a new and important ally in Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., chairman of the foreign relations subcommittee on Asia. He circulated a letter among his colleagues supporting the need for continuing, full-time, on-the-spot international supervision of the situation.

A diverse, bipartisan group of nearly 30 senators supported the letter, illustrating how a relatively small amount of press coverage had spread awareness of the Timor tragedy in Washington. But the initiative fell through when Hayakawa suspended the letter under pressure from the Reagan administration, which shares the Carter administration's reluctance to press Indonesia.

Meanwhile, horrifying accounts continue to arrive from East Timor. The most recent is a report introduced into the Congressional Record last month by Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, D-Mass., of a new Indonesian military offensive in which 500 Timorese, including children and pregnant women, were said to have been massacred. Church sources say that the latest Indonesian "operation" could lead to a renewal of serious food problems—this at a time when Jakarta has barred further international food aid for the island.

A few Timorese still manage to get out. A small group is now in this country, under the auspices of humanitarian organizations, to give firsthand accounts of the tragedy being suffered by their countrymen. Unfortunately, they arrived at a time when America is preoccupied with the suppression of the people of Poland. The people suffering on a little island thousands of miles across the Pacific wish that they could receive even one-tenth the attention.

TRAGEDY CONTINUES IN EAST TIMOR

● Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. President, on December 16 of last year I spoke of the tragic situation in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, which 6 years ago was invaded by Indonesia. I referred to accounts from Roman Catholic sources reporting a recent Indonesian military offensive in the territory which could lead to food shortages in the coming months. In addition, I stressed that these potential shortages would occur among a population still recovering from the Cambodia-like catastrophe that struck their island nation from 1978 through 1980. I also suggested that food stockpiles be established in East Timor to prevent further disaster.

Last month, additional information became available on the food situation from media coverage in Australia, a close neighbor of East Timor. These accounts were based on an urgent appeal from Monsignor Martinho do Costa Lopes, the Apostolic Administrator of East Timor, to the head of Australian Catholic Relief, calling for food assistance to avert a possible famine. The Australian Government responded immediately with a pledge of 1,000 tons of corn for the Catholic, Relief shipment.

However, Australian Catholic Relief has not been permitted to enter East Timor to supervise the distribution of the aid shipment, and at present, there are no international relief agencies in the territory on a full-time basis. The director of Australian Catholic Relief, Mr. Michael Whitely, appealed to the Indonesian Government in mid-January to "allow Australian aid agencies into East Timor to see the situation for themselves and to assess how they might cooperate in the establishment of normal conditions there." I would like to register my support for this appeal as well as for any others that may come from qualified, independent international relief groups that are prepared to work in East Timor.

Recently, the Timorese Bishop made it clear that Indonesian military action was responsible for the deterioration of the food situation. He pointed out that Timorese villagers were forced by the Indonesian army to participate in operations aimed at rooting out continuing guerrilla resistance to Indonesian rule, taking able-bodied men away from normal agricultural activity, with the result that there will at best be a poor harvest, at worst a famine. Australian Catholic Relief affirmed that the Bishop's information corroborated what the organization already knows from other sources. On January 14, 1982, the respected Australian daily, The Melbourne Age, offered another account supporting this version of events; which, I should add, reached me from other sources.

In my December 16 statement for the RECORD, I also drew attention to a November 1981 account by a distinguished Timorese Roman Catholic cleric, who charged Indonesian troops with committing gruesome atrocities. A January 1, 1982, article in the Far Eastern Economic Review underscores the seriousness of the situation. It tells of a report written by Indonesian-appointed members of the East Timor "Popular Assembly" set up by Jakarta after the 1975 invasion of the territory. The report, which was sent to Indonesian President Suharto last June, says, for example, that assembly members were "continually, with deep sorrow, receiving verbal as well as written reports or complaints from the people about torture, maltreatment, murders and other unimaginable cases." Curiously enough, the day after the report was first discussed publicly in the U.S. Congress, at a hearing in the House of Representatives, the authors of the report were arrested. Fortunately, the Timorese assemblymen were later released, largely through the efforts of Indonesian human rights attorney Muliya Lublis of the Jakarta-based Legal Aid Institute.

It is significant to note that, according to an account from Reuters news agency, the document prepared by the Timorese assemblymen is "similar to a secret report compiled recently by Catholic priests in Timor for the Vatican." I would like to remind my colleagues that the Timorese were installed in their positions by Indonesian authorities.

The existence of this and other information only confirms my belief that a neutral international presence is needed in East Timor, to help protect the civilian population from further violence as well as to distribute food and medicine. It also confirms my belief that in the long term, a just political settlement in accordance with international law is the only viable solution to the East Timor problem.

Mr. President, for the benefit of my colleagues I ask that the following articles from the Canberra Times, the Melbourne Age, and the Sydney Morning Herald be printed in the RECORD; together with the article from the Far Eastern Economic Review.

The articles follow:

[From the Canberra Times, Jan. 11, 1982]

"THREAT OF FAMINE" IN TIMOR

SYDNEY.—Substantial international assistance will be needed to prevent famine breaking out in Timor this year, according to the Australian Catholic Relief agency.

It has received urgent requests for aid from the island's capital, Dili, where hundreds of thousands of Timorese have gathered to avoid Indonesian military operations in country areas.

Monsignor Martinho Da Costa Lopes, the Roman Catholic Church's administrator in Dili, said in a letter to ACR that food shortages already were serious and that many farmers had been killed.

He said that the continued presence of Indonesian soldiers was to blame for the disruption to the island's subsistence economy, and confirmed that a major operation to flush Fretilin forces from mountain areas was a substantial cause of the current shortages.

The national director of ACR, Mr. Michael Whiteley, said yesterday that the monsignor's explanation corroborated "what we already had known and heard from other sources".

Monsignor Lopes said that the Indonesian soldiers forced all able-bodied men between the ages of 15 and 50 to form a "human fence" through the Fretilin-controlled territory to keep the resistance fighters and their families on the move.

Many Timorese were killed in the operation, which took place in July, August, and September last year.

They included women and children and 300 people were said to have been killed in a four-day siege at a local shrine, the Rock of St. Anthony.

The removal of the men from their villages prevented the planting of crops and those who returned were often too weak to work. Some crops were planted but this was too late.

"The result will be at least a poor harvest—at worst, a famine", Monsignor Lopes wrote. "This conclusion is inescapable as the people now can do nothing to increase food production for at least six months".

There are no international relief agencies in Timor. The Red Cross and the US Catholic relief services wound up their work in April last year and the distribution of aid has been left to the local Catholic Church.

Mr. Whiteley said that ACR had allocated about $90,000 for 1981 and this year to the East Timor emergency rehabilitation program, but church relief workers had requested $250,000 mainly for food, medicine and care for orphans.

There are an estimated 550,000 people on Timor, and the majority are in and around the relative safety of Dili. This is placing

great pressure on the resources of the capital and disrupting agricultural work.

[From the Sydney Morning Herald, Jan. 12, 1982]

AUSTRALIA TO SEND CORN TO INDONESIA FOR TIMOR

(By Scott Milson and Malcolm Brown)

The Federal Government announced yesterday that it would give 1,000 tonnes of corn to Indonesia to help avert food shortages in Timor.

It was a day of angry accusations and pleading by Australian aid officials to have direct access to Timor, countered by replies from the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra that there was not a critical food shortage and aid was going through normal channels.

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Street, said yesterday that the corn, valued at $430,000, was being given in response to a request in November from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The announcement was brought forward following the urgent appeal at the weekend from the Roman Catholic representative in Dili to the Australian Catholic Relief agency to avert possible famine in Timor.

In addition to the food, the Australian Government has decided to give $45,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross to maintain its operations in the territory till mid-year.

Mr. Street said yesterday that Timor was an area where food supplies were traditionally precarious. He would not comment on reports that Indonesian military operations had adversely affected food supply in Timor.

In Sydney, the national director of Australian Catholic Relief, Mr. Michael Whiteley, said the facts as he knew them suggested that the Indonesian Government was deliberately trying to starve out Fretelin guerillas hiding in the countryside.

"I appeal to the Indonesian Government to allow Australian aid agencies into East Timor to see the situation for themselves and to assess how they might co-operate in the establishment of normal conditions there," he said.

Mr. Isslamet Poenomo, the Indonesian Embassy's press attache in Canberra, said yesterday that his Government's policy was straightforward on the distribution of relief.

"The procedure is to give relief or aid to Indonesia and especially Timor through the Indonesian Red Cross," he said. "To give directly to East Timor will not be allowed."

[From the Age, Jan. 14, 1982]

TIMORESE FACING STARVATION, SAYS SMUGGLED LETTER

(By Jim Brumby)

A letter smuggled out of East Timor, written by an opponent of Fretihin has confirmed reports of the Indonesian army using Timorese peasants to fight guerrillas, and warns of impending starvation.

The letter's author, who now works in the Indonesian bureaucracy, sent the letter to his cousin in Melbourne at the beginning of December. It was handed over to The Age yesterday by Mr. Cliff Morris, a translator of Timorese stories. The letter was written in Portuguese.

In chronicling the events since the Indonesian invasion in late 1975, the letter draws particular attention to the "corral campaign," dubbed the "fence of legs" by the Timorese.

It says: "Since July the most depressing and painful drama in the history of the Timorese people has taken place—the corral campaign. All males from age seven to 60 have been conscripted to take an active part (in flushing out the guerrillas).

"The campaign embraces the whole of the territory, from Lapsalos to the border. The Indonesian propaganda is impossible, it says East Timor is integrated with Indonesia'—but why then has this war been going on for six to seven years?

"It shows the people do not want foreign domination. Why is there a nation of 150 million inhabitants fighting with one of a ½ million—something one would think impossible to imagine or fantasize about, but it is happening.

"More and more people suffer, but it will not be in vain. At the middle of the suffering, the Indonesians are perceived as murderers, intruders, evil treaters, oppressors, robbers and more. This will continue."

The author says the corral campaign began in most sections of the country in the first week of July. It involves Timorese walking in front of the Indonesian army in the search for guerrillas—hence the title "fence of legs."

Mr. Morris said the mass conscription of Timorese men had led to a break in the subsistence food chain and would cause mass starvation. He said this was a deliberate strategy of the Indonesians.

The letter continues: "It has brought social and political discontent. Many have been treated badly. There is murmuring revolt in so many—but in vain. Many good men have been banished to the islands which act as prison camps—often because they have relatives who are still in the woods.

"Economically the campaign has brought total misery for the people. It has caused a failure in agriculture. How in general can a population continue to survive when produce like rice, maize, cassava, potatoes et cetera are deficient? As well, the produce which grows on the plains is not gathered because there is nobody there to gather it."

[From the Canberra Times, Jan. 14, 1982]

EAST TIMOR BRUTALITY CONTINUING

LONDON, Wednesday (AAP).—East Timorese refugees arriving in Lisbon say mass executions and indiscriminate brutality are continuing in their homeland, six years after Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony, it was reported in London yesterday.

Jill Jolliffe, writing for *The Guardian* said that, according to refugees who recently arrived in Portugal through a precarious escape route from Dili, fighting was still going on between Indonesian troops and Timorese nationalists led by Fretilin, the Revolutionary Front of Independent East Timor. Arrests and arbitary imprisonments were also continuing.

Amnesty International has been monitoring the situation since the invasion, and its list of East Timorese who have disappeared or allegedly been executed is growing.

Jill Jolliffe said the refugees were bitter that the world community was vocally indignant about Afghanistan but appeared to have forgotten them.

In recent months, the territory had been the scene of a new military offensive by the Indonesian Army. The result, according to a Roman Catholic Church source in Dili, had been the execution of about 500 civilians late last year.

According to Jill Jolliffe, the resistance has survived the most devastating Indonesian military onslaughts over six years, and the population at large appeared as opposed to the occupation as it was in 1975.

[From the Far Eastern Review, Jan. 1, 1982]

JAKARTA'S CAN OF WORMS

(By Michael Richardson)

The Jakarta-appointed provincial assembly in Indonesia's East Timor province has warned that corruption, brutality and other abuses of power by some in the army and administration are causing growing fear and anti-government feeling in the territory. The warning came in an assembly report addressed to President Suharto. And its leakage led to the arrest in November of the two assembly representatives who signed it—Leandro Isaac and Sousa Soares. They were later released.

Their lawyer, Muliya Lubis of the Jakarta-based Legal Aid Institute, told the Review he had heard that two other Timorese had also been arrested, one of them a member of the provincial assembly, Francisco Dios Himines. Lubis said he had not been able to confirm this, though other sources in Indonesia also believe there have been four arrests.

They had heard that Oscar Lucio Concalves, a closer relative of East Timor's Governor Guilherme Goncalves, had been taken into custody. Goncalves was one of the leading supporters of the integration of East Timor into Indonesia when the territory was still under Portuguese colonial rule in the early 1970's. The provincial assembly has about 24 members, handpicked as supporters of integration in July 1976.

Publication of the provincial assembly report, which complains of economic hardship as well as malpractices, is an embarrassment for the Indonesian Government. It confirms that there is deep disenchantment in East Timor. An English-language translation of the report begins by claiming that the people of East Timor are "forever indebted and grateful" for the incorporation of the Portuguese colony into Indonesia. But it goes on to say that some people from elsewhere in Indonesia—most of them military personnel—who had come to the province, were guilty of "great brutality" and abuse of power. They were ignoring local customs and behaving as "conquerors."

The report says that the East Timor provincial assembly "is continually, with deep sorrow, receiving verbal as well as written reports of complaints from the people about torture, maltreatment, murders and other unimaginable cases. The basic laws in this province are controlled by certain individuals or groups who place their personal interests above the interests of the people as a whole . . . feelings of fear are widespread . . . with the result that the living conditions of the people have worsened."

So far the Indonesian Government has made no comment about the reported arrests of the two signatories of the assembly report, though the news has been carried in both the Indonesian and foreign press. But on December 22, the speaker of the Indonesian parliament, Daryatmo, criticised their arrest. He said he had discussed the matter with the national security chief, Adm. Sudomo.

The Legal Aid Institute earlier challenged the arrests on the grounds that under the law members of both central and provincial assemblies are supposed to be immune from arrest. Daryatmo said detention of any assembly member should have the approval of Suharto after consultation with the speaker of the parliament in Jakarta. "The authorities should not act arbitrarily and they should abide by the procedures and law of the government," he added.

An Indonesian source familiar with the case told the Review that Isaac and Soares brought copies of the report, dated June 3, 1981, to Jakarta in late August or early September, staying about a week. They were unable to see the president to give him a copy, though it is believed he subsequently saw the report. They also gave a copy of it to the Indonesian parliament.

Lubis said the two Timorese assemblymen were arrested on November 18 in Dili by members of Kotis, a special operations group of the army in East Timor. They were later taken to Denpasar in Bali, where the commander for the military region that includes East Timor, Brig. Gen. Dading Kalbuadi, has his headquarters. Lubis said he had not been able to contact his clients or get official permission to visit them.

There has been no official word on who ordered the arrests or why, but the Jakarta daily newspaper, Merdeka, reported that the two men were detained for allegedly allowing copies of the assembly report to reach foreign organizations, diplomats and news media. An English translation first appeared in the September issue of a monthly bulletin issued by Tapol, a British-based group that campaigns for political detainees in Indonesia. The government claims the Tapol organization is communist-influenced. The bulletin included a photostat copy of the covering letter in Indonesian to Suharto from the assembly. It was signed on behalf of the chairman by Isaac as the youngest member and Soares as the oldest.

Observers believe the army in East Timor made the summary arrests in an attempt to prevent criticism of Indonesia from spreading. General elections are to be held in May 1982 and they will be the first in East Timor since its incorporation. In a speech on December 22, Suharto called on the people of Indonesia to ensure that the polls do not disrupt national unity.

The East Timor assembly report accuses several Indonesian army units stationed in the territory of killing Timorese, mainly for practising "black magic." This presumably refers to the traditional animist religion of the bulk of the Timorese population. Most members of Indonesia's army are Muslims or Christians.

It cites two cases involving two battalions in which several people allegedly were killed. The report charges that in Viqueque district "inhabitants were murdered after being tortured by having their sex organs slashed because they did not obey orders serving the interests of certain individuals or groups and also because of black magic practices." It claims that in Likisa district people "were murdered by the sub-district military command after being tortured with electricity and other forms of burning . . ."

The report continues: "These murders and acts of torture committed by these irresponsible persons or groups have resulted in a situation of instability throughout . . . East Timor where there have been many reactions, fears and a variety of other feelings. Furthermore, in a situation where there are no legal restraints and no discipline, problems relating to morality occur, such as in Dili where several women in a prison were tortured with electricity and burnt cigarettes by some elements of the armed forces, who also inflicted immoral sexual acts upon them." The report does not say when these alleged abused took place.

It goes on to say that though "quite a lot of financial assistance has been received from the central government in Jakarta for development of East Timor, the Timorese people have not yet felt any real benefits." It complains that an army-controlled enterprise, P. T. Denok, has a monopoly on trading in two of East Timor's main export commodities—coffee and sandalwood (Review, May 23, 1980)—and says the company pays very low prices for what it buys.

Three leading non-local government officials in East Timor are specifically accused of corruption, including squandering project funds and diverting medicines sent from abroad for private gain.

The report ends as it begins, on a conciliatory and loyal note. It says the damage to the "fine, high ideals" of the Indonesian armed forces in East Timor is being caused by "a mere handful of individuals." The purpose of the report is to "help create a good name and respect for the Indonesian armed forces in the eyes of the people of East Timor."

The assembly hoped that Suharto "will be gracious enough to rectify these distortions which can lead to unrest and anxieties among the people and native officials of East Timor . . ."

[From the Canberra Times, Jan. 12, 1982]

AUSTRALIA BOOSTS FOOD ASSISTANCE TO TIMOR

(By Teresa Mamix)

The Federal Government announced yesterday that $430,000 worth of food aid would be sent to Timor, despite assurances by the Indonesian Government that no famine existed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Street, said 1,000 tonnes of corn would be shipped to Dili within the next few weeks.

Including freight, the aid was valued at about $430,000.

Mr. Street's announcement follows a report by a senior Roman Catholic representative in Dili, Monsignor Martinho da Costa Lopes, that a serious food shortage was looming in Timor because Indonesian troops had disrupted the economy.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said yesterday that Timor had always been a "food problem" area and that the Government had been approached by the Red Cross last month to set up "buffer" supplies of food which could be drawn on during bad harvests. Because of the current publicity about a possible famine in Timor, yesterday seemed an appropriate time to announce new arrangements.

Mr. Street said the grain buffer stock had been established with the agreement of the Red Cross and the Indonesian Government. It was to supplement any shortfall in the province's current harvest. In addition, Australia had contributed $45,000 to support the involvement of International Catholic Relief in the province until at least mid-1982.

Australia would continue to give sympathetic consideration to any further requests for assistance.

A spokesman for the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra said yesterday that his Government was annoyed by the reports of a famine.

"We deny this allegation", he said.

He said Monsignor Lopes had met Indonesian President Suharto in August last year and had pledged his support to the Indonesian Government. He could not understand why Monsignor Lopes had written a letter saying there was a famine.

There were special boards in the major Timorese towns to monitor food supplies and to distribute food when necessary. A good rice harvest was expected this year and the Government had spent a great deal of money developing Timor.

Monsignor Lopes said Indonesia's campaign against Fretlin troops was taking farmers away from their fields, and the harvest was suffering.

The embassy spokesman said the military campaign was purely voluntary, and no villager was compelled to enlist. Although villagers aged between 18 and 40 were encouraged to be responsible for their own defence, there were many villages which did not take part in the program.

SYDNEY.—The national director of Australian Catholic Relief, Mr. Michael Whiteley, said yesterday, "Many Australian aid agencies have been critical of Indonesian actions in East Timor solely because they saw the unnecessary suffering they were causing to the Timorese people.

"We want to alleviate the suffering. It is our experience that the only sure way to do this is to embark on a long-term development program that will reestablish the agricultural sector and rebuild adequate medical facilities.

"I cannot understand why the Indonesian Government will not allow us to help. Our agencies are already involved in programs in Indonesia and there has been no government criticism of those programs".

Referring to an Indonesian statement that it was shipping rice to East Timor, Mr. Whiteley said this would not be necessary if a viable agriculture was developed. The cost of shipping this rice to Timor would mean that those most in need could not afford to buy it.

The chairman of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Mr. Richard Alston, wants the Indonesian Government to allow a delegation from Australian overseas-aid agencies to visit East Timor.

Mr. Alston, whose organisation is the coordinating body for 37 Australian voluntary agencies, said, "It seems that Indonesian authorities are determined to suppress the truth about the current situation in East Timor with the result that valuable humanitarian assistance will not be available to those reportedly in the greatest need".●

Myth and Ideology
in
U. S. Foreign Policy:

East Timor and El Salvador

by Noam Chomsky

UNA EDICION BILINGUE (INGLES-ESPAÑOL)

Available from:

East Timor Human Rights Committee
Box 363 Clinton Station
Syracuse, NY 13201 USA

60¢ 28pp.

EAST TIMOR

• Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. President, on past occasions I have expressed concern over the tragic situation in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, and have suggested steps that might be taken to help remedy the situation. Last year nine of my colleagues joined me in expressing some of these concerns in a letter to then Secretary of State Muskie. We spoke of the need to maintain and expand an independent international presence in the territory, in light of continuing reports of armed conflict and the jailing of large numbers of political prisoners. Our letter also underscored the plight of families who have been separated by the conflict—of those who have wished to leave East Timor for Portugal and Australia but have been prevented from doing so.

I have reiterated these points several times and have also stressed the need to open East Timor to the news media and, ultimately, to find diplomatic means to bring this conflict to an end. Last week marked 6 years since Indonesia invaded East Timor.

Recent information I have received only confirms the necessity of these and other measures. In October, Amnesty International released a report on the Timor situation that once again drew attention to accounts of summary executions and "disappearances" carried out by the Indonesian forces, as well as to arbitrary imprisonment, primarily but not exclusively on the offshore island of Atauro. For 6 years these prisons have been closed to inspection by neutral international humanitarian agencies.

Reports from Roman Catholic sources in East Timor have indicated that a recent Indonesian military offensive in the territory could lead to serious food shortages in the coming months, among a civilian population still recovering from the Cambodia-like catastrophe of 1978–80. A similar report appeared in the November 26 edition of the Boston Globe. International relief agencies should be allowed to establish sufficient food stockpiles in East Timor to avert further disasters.

Only a few days ago, I received a copy of a letter, dated November 19, from a distinguished Roman Catholic cleric in East Timor. The letter details the most gruesome of atrocities, and warrants our closest attention. Unfortunately, I have not been able to adequately substantiate the number of people killed as reported in the letter. It is very clear, however, that the conflict continues and that innocent Timorese people are being killed.

Mr. President, for the benefit of my colleagues I ask that the excerpts from the priest's letter be printed in the RECORD, followed by the above mentioned Amnesty International document and the article from the Boston Globe.

The material follows:

LETTER FROM ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

(Dated November 19, 1981)

The news from Timor is quite bad. However it is necessary to have the courage to receive it, considering that it is based on the truth.

With the military operation that took place in July, August, and September, it seems as if a cyclone had swept Timor from end to end, leaving the island in a true tragedy: The death of innocent children of two to three years of age, pregnant women and defenseless people massacred only because they did not want to lose their identity among the nations of the world. Approximately 500 people were accused and killed without hesitation or pity, exclusively for the crime of not wanting to integrate into the Republic of Indonesia, preferring above all to be slaves in their own independence to being well-off under the paw of others. After all this we come to the conclusion that the military operation undertaken by Indonesia in Timor not only did not produce the desired effect, but was actually counterproductive. The question of Timor cannot be resolved by shooting, only through dialogue.

But let us leave this to the politicians, considering that the policies adopted until now have been an authentic disaster. The Indonesians would like to excuse themselves with material development which they would like to undertake. However, how can there be authentic development without the participation of the Timorese people, who are now reeling from hunger, disease and all kinds of physical misery? The greatest wealth of Timor is the Timorese people, without which everything else would have no sense. Let me ask God to enlighten men so that they can understand that above all it is human dignity that should be valued, in accordance with the teachings of the last Papal Encyclicals.

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to present Amnesty International's concerns in connection with the Committee's consideration of the question of East Timor.

The areas addressed in this statement are those which fall within the specific mandate of the organization: Amnesty International seeks the release of "prisoners of conscience"—persons who have been imprisoned for the non-violent exercise of their beliefs, for their ethnic origin, colour, sex, language or religion. It works for fair and early trials for all political prisoners and on behalf of prisoners detained without charge or trial. It opposes without reservation the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

As Amnesty International noted in a statement before this committee last year and again in a statement to the Special Committee on Decolonization's Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance in June 1981, it was evident that violations of the human rights within the mandate of Amnesty International continued to take place in East Timor. To summarize Amnesty International's concerns in East Timor as presented on those occasions: Amnesty International has been concerned that Timorese have "disappeared" after surrendering under the terms of amnesty guaranteeing their personal safety after being captured; that others who had surrendered to or been captured by Indonesian forces have been summarily executed; that large numbers of persons have been detained without trial, some for the full period since the invasion, and held in harsh prison conditions which constituted cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

Information received by Amnesty International since June indicates that grounds for grave concern remain.

Since June, Amnesty International has received reports that a number of persons who had "disappeared" were in fact killed shortly after being taken into the custody of Indonesian troops. These include three persons who were reported to have "disappeared" in early 1979: a 17-year-old student named Maria Gorete Joaquim, who "disappeared" with her uncle, Leopoldo Joaquim, and two young men, Filomeno Alves and Manuel Exposto, who had been well known in Dili before the Indonesian invasion as members of the popular musical group, Os Cinco do Oriente. A third member of the musical group, Onorio Pereira, about whose fate Amnesty International had previously received information, is now reported also to have been shot and killed by Indonesian troops in early 1979. Amnesty International feels that the circumstances of these deaths must be investigated thoroughly.

In recent months Amnesty International has received more extensive reports about the imprisonment without trial of large numbers of East Timorese. These reports indicate that in two places of detention, the former Dili District Prison (Cadeia Comarca under the Portuguese administration and still known as the Comarca) and the island of Atauro off the main island of Timor, at least 2,000 persons are detained. Those held in the Comarca are repoted to be predominantly former combatants, although an unknown number of them are former Timorese soldiers of the Portuguese Army who did not engage in combat against the Indonesians, while others, believed to have taken part in fighting the Indonesian invasion, have been imprisoned without trial since immediately after the invasion in December 1975. Amnesty International drew the Committee's attention last year to the harsh conditions and poor diet in the Comarca which seriously endanger prisoners' health.

Since June 1980 Amnesty International has received continual reports of persons being held on the island of Atauro to the North of the main island of Timor. According to information received by the organization, those taken to the island are civilians held simply on suspicion of being sympathetic to the independence cause. In some cases, their families have been compelled to accompany them. Once on Atauro, they are required to build their own quarters and grow their own food. There are reported to be grave shortages of some essential foodstuffs. Information on the conditions in which they are held is sparse and hard to obtain.

Amnesty International would again like to stress, as it has on previous occasions, that it cannot regard the information available to it on the human rights situation in East Timor as complete, primarily because of the strict prohibition imposed by the Indonesian occupation forces which prevents unhindered access to the territory and the free flow of information from it. The organization has received other reports indicating detainees

are being held in other places, both on the mainland of Timor and on other offshore islands. Although it cannot confirm these reports, Amnesty International considers that, together with the recent well-founded reports of imprisonment in Dili and Atauro, they give urgency to its earlier recommendation that the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to undertake tracing and prison visitation programs in East Timor.

Amnesty International has now accumulated considerable evidence that East Timorese taken into the custody of Indonesian occupation forces have been and continue to be treated in violation of international standards, whether their fate be imprisonment without trial, extra-judicial execution or "disappearance". Amnesty International remains concerned that the Indonesian Government still has not responded to the recommendations made to it in April 1980 for the protection of the human rights of the people of East Timor.

Amnesty International presents these findings to the Committee in the belief that they are relevant and important to your consideration of the question of East Timor.

[From the Boston Globe, Nov. 26, 1981]

PORTUGUESE NEGLIGENCE CITED IN EAST TIMOR WAR

(By Peter Wise)

LISBON.—Military documents released last month by the Lisbon government show that the negligence and lack of discipline of Portuguese troops stationed on the former Portuguese colony of East Timor nourished the outbreak of civil strife between rival independence movements and facilitated the 1975 invasion by Indonesia. More than 200,000 died in these hostilities and the ensuing famine.

The controversial documents, kept secret since they were compiled in 1975 and 1976, were disclosed by the center-right Democratic Alliance coalition government to end speculation touched off by a recent documentary on the state-run television network. In the program, left-wing leaders of the 1974 "Revolution of Flowers" were accused of vacillating during secret talks with the Indonesians, thus easing the way for Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor, a remote island 300 miles off the northwestern tip of Australia.

Three prominent Socialists and several other persons are filing defamation suits against the authors of the program. They claim the program deliberately set out to discredit the left. But the two journalists concerned and the government-appointed head of the television network maintain that the documentary was an objective narrative of events, compiled after four months of research.

The controversial documentary has finally brought the question of Timor—up until now known here as the "silent Vietnam"—to the forefront of Portuguese politics, sparking a bitter, three-way confrontation between the center-right Democratic Alliance, the opposition Socialist Party and the military Council of Revolution, a left-wing constitutional watchdog and a holdover from the early days of the revolution.

The documents released by the government indicate that two factors created the climate of instability in East Timor that led to civil war and later served as a pretext for the invasion by Indonesia—an operation carried out with US-supplied arms and endorsed by successive Washington administrations.

First, following the overthrow of the Salazar dictatorship in Lisbon in April 1974, revolutionary euphoria spread quickly from Portugal to troops on Timor. Several Portuguese officers and their troops defected to Timorese independence movements while several other units were so undependable that they were taken off the island. Political differences among Portuguese military commanders had "serious repercussions both at civilian and military levels," the report says.

By August 1975, "The Portuguese army no longer held decisive power on Timor," the documents conclude. "This breakdown of military command created the conditions for civil war" when fighting broke out between rival independence movements last month. "The colonial armed forces did not have the capacity to intervene" and the Portuguese withdrew to an offshore island where they maintained a "symbolic presence" until the invasion by Indonesia five months later.

Second, the indifference of political parties in Lisbon toward the decolonization of remote East Timor worsened the insecurity of the traditionally anti-Indonesian islanders, leaving them "convinced that Portugal would abandon the territory" and exacerbating the struggles between rival groups. The documents say the pressing problem of decolonization of the richer, more densely populated African colonies, where Portugal had been at war for several years, relegated the question of Timor to a minor priority.

Portugal's post-revolutionary governments were against maintaining a link with Timor, disapproving the financial aid necessary to develop the island, while diplomatic efforts by successive Lisbon governments were not able to pressure other powers into opposing the Jakarta aggression towards Timor, the reports conclude.

The principal document released by the government was written by Col. Lemos Pires, who was appointed military governor of the island by the revolutionary government in November 1974. His 700-page report to his military chiefs in Lisbon describes how the political and military situation on the island slipped out of his control, forcing him to withdraw his troops in August 1975.

Another of the hitherto secret documents is a 200-page report on the conduct of the Portuguese military in East Timor compiled in 1976 by a four-man military commission at the orders of left-leaning President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, then chief of the armed forces. The commission is strongly critical of Col. Pires for not using force to halt the fighting between rival Timorese factions.

The release of the dossiers is highly compromising for the Socialists, and in particular for the left-wing soldier-politicians who led the 1974 Portuguese revolution. The government maintains that its only motive for publication was "the public's right to know."

But the Council of Revolution says that by declassifying secret military documents that discredit the left, the government is using the case of East Timor for political ends.

Although the present dispute is about where the blame lies for the tragedy of Timor and is centered on the events of 1975, the furor has also cast a harsh light on the present government's unsuccessful attempts to do something about the plight of the East Timorese today.

Catholic Church sources in East Timor report that an Indonesian army "cleanup" operation against nationalist guerrillas still holding out in mountain areas could lead to renewed famine.

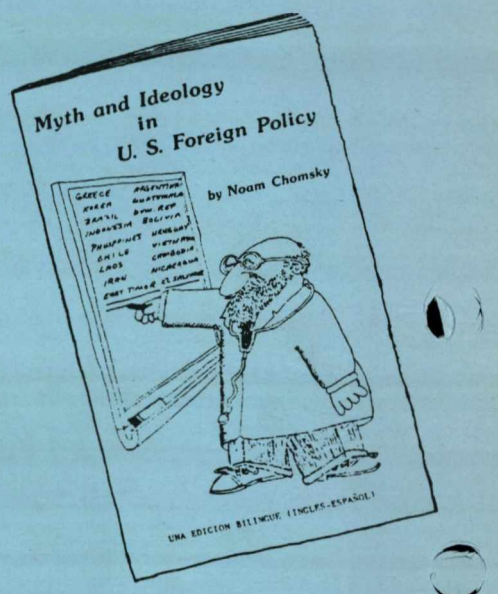
Since mid-September, security forces have been sweeping east and west through the island in a pincer movement aimed at driving out resistance fighters, says the Australian-based organization, Action for World Development.

All male islanders between 15 and 50 and many women and children have been conscripted to help round up their countrymen. Schools and public departments have been closed, say the church reports.

This mobilization has taken the Timorese away from their lands during the vital crop-sowing season and threatens a serious food shortage, the church contacts say.

In the wake of the Indonesian invasion in 1975, thousands died from starvation and disease when crops were destroyed.

Timorese refugees recently arrived in Lisbon say one of the factors holding back thousands who wish to flee the island is the difficulty in obtaining Portuguese passports. Meanwhile, the Portuguese diplomatic initiative launched a year ago with the aim of securing self determination for the islanders and a rapid solution to their vast humanitarian problems has so far shown no results.



RESOURCES on EAST TIMOR

Myth & Ideology in US Foreign Policy by Noam Chomsky–60¢

Recent Media Coverade - 40¢

Recent Activity in Congress–40¢

E Timor UPDATE newsletter- $5/yr

E Timor leaflet: 10–$1, 50–$3

10 Myths & Fallacies: 5–$1,25–$3

East Timor Poster - $3

E Timor Conference Report–$1.25

Beyond Hunger(SE Asia Chronicle #74) - 75¢

East Timor Slideshow: Rental–$10
Purchase–$30

AVAILABLE FROM:

E TIMOR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMIT
BOX 363 CLINTON STATION
SYRACUSE, N Y 13201-0363
USA